

Are You Still Administering Flu Vaccine?

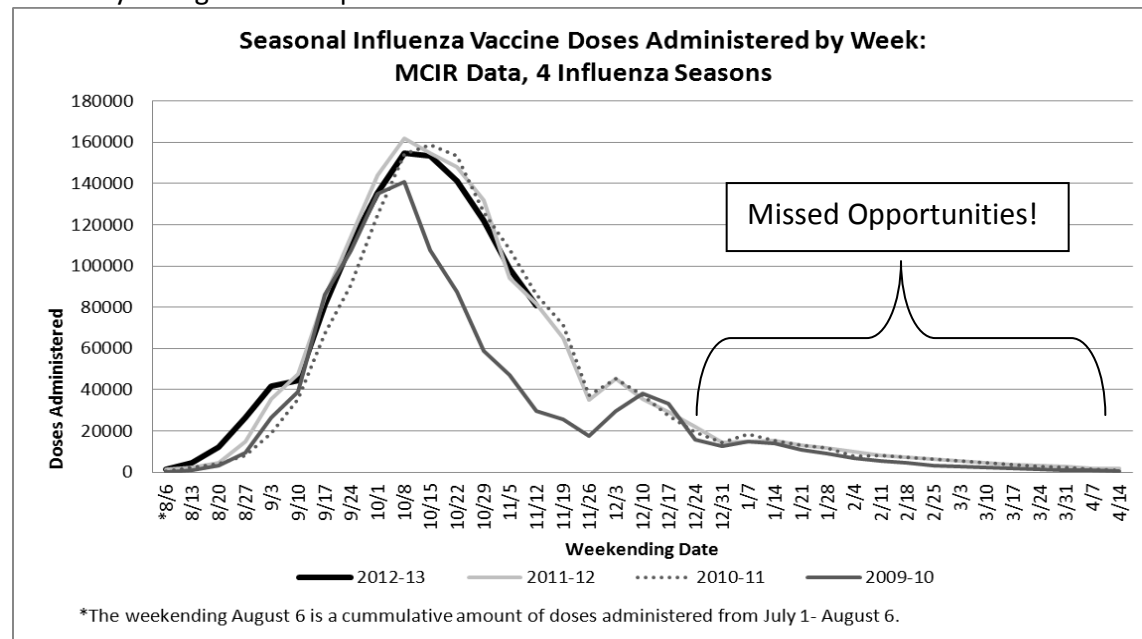
Here are some reasons you should be vaccinating your patients:

- In Michigan, two influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported this flu season. Nationally 6 pediatric deaths have been reported to CDC, as of December 2012. (Current data: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>)
 - The single best way to protect against seasonal flu and its potentially severe consequences is to get a seasonal flu vaccine each year.
- Currently the U.S. is experiencing an early flu season that could be severe.
 - Influenza A H3N2 viruses are predominant. Typically, H3N2 seasons are more severe, with higher numbers of hospitalizations and deaths.
- So far this season, a majority of the influenza viruses that have been antigenically characterized are well-matched to the 2012-2013 influenza vaccine.
 - It is not too late to vaccinate and you should continue to vaccinate into the spring months until your flu vaccine expires.

A few reminders:

- CDC recommends an annual flu vaccine for everyone 6 months and older.
 - Ensure your patients and YOU are protected from the flu!
- Children 6 months through 8 years of age may require two doses of flu vaccine. MCIR is programmed to determine the doses a child needs. More info: www.michigan.gov/flu.
- New Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR) rules (effective August 7, 2012) require you to report flu vaccinations administered to every child born after December 31, 1993, within 72 hours of administration.
- It is very important and highly encouraged to enter adult doses into MCIR.

The following MCIR data show timing of flu vaccine administration for the last 5 flu seasons. The 2012-13 flu season contains data from July 1, 2012, through November 20, 2012. Please note: these data may change as retrospective doses are entered.



Key Points:

- Persons who receive a vaccine recommendation from their provider are **7 times** more likely to be immunized, highlighting the critical importance of provider recommendation.
- Tell a story – use resources from Alana's foundation (www.alanasfoundation.org) and Families Fighting Flu (www.familiesfightingflu.org) to convey the importance of vaccination.
- Please play your part and ensure that your patients are protected. For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/flu.